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PRESS RELEASE

EAST BOSTON CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS OUTPERFORM ALL PEER GROUPS ON MCAS

September 30, 2004. East Boston, MA. **6th grade students at Excel Academy Charter School outperformed all relevant peer groups on the 2004 Math MCAS exam.** Excel Academy, a charter, public middle school, opened its doors in September of 2003 with 100 6th grade students from East Boston and Chelsea, 85% of whom were Latino and 77% of whom qualified for the federal free and reduced price lunch program.

In its very first year of operation, Excel Academy achieved impressive 6th grade math MCAS results:

- Excel Academy had the highest passing rate (84%) and Advanced/Proficient rate (44%) of any Boston public school with a predominantly Latino population. In fact, more Excel Academy students scored Advanced or Proficient than all but 4 public, district middle schools in Boston.
- Excel Academy's 6th graders also posted a higher passing rate (84%) than all neighboring school districts including Boston (47%), Chelsea (64%), Winthrop (73%) and Revere (80%).
- Excel Academy's 84% passing rate was greater than the statewide average of 75%. In fact, Excel Academy's predominantly Latino student population had a greater passing rate than the state's white students who had a passing rate of 82%.
- 44% of Excel Academy 6th graders scored Advanced or Proficient on the math MCAS, outperforming the neighboring districts of Boston (18%), Chelsea (29%) and Winthrop (38%) as well as the state average (42%).

"Given this was our very first year of operation, we are extremely pleased by our performance and are proud of our students. In particular, we have shown that urban, low-income students and students of color can achieve great academic success in the right environment," states Yutaka Tamura, Executive Director.

Brian Turner, the school's Principal adds, "Our results illustrate that a rigorous learning environment in which students receive extra support, combined with a longer school day and year, can produce excellent academic results. In addition, this is a testament to our amazingly dedicated staff that is committed to providing the best education to our students."

Established in 2003, Excel Academy Charter School is currently serving 200 6th and 7th grade students. The school's mission is to prepare 6th through 8th grade students to succeed in high school and college, apply their learning to solve relevant problems, and engage productively in their communities.